

San Jose Library and Reading Protection Measure (Library Parcel Tax)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE S

Support San Jose's public libraries WITHOUT raising taxes. Measure S will simply replace San Jose's current library assessment that expires at the end of 2004. Passing Measure S will not only prevent significant cutbacks in library services, it will provide additional funding to replace outdated books and materials, update deteriorating equipment, protect library hours and improve other library services.

Measure S will help to keep our kids safe. San Jose libraries provide activities, like homework centers and tutoring, which serve hundreds of kids every day during after school hours when kids are most likely to get into trouble. Passing Measure S will help prevent cuts in these after-school services.

Many school districts are cutting back school libraries and staffing. As a result, many local public school and community college students are depending upon San Jose public libraries. By passing Measure S, we can ensure that our local libraries continue to meet the educational needs of local students.

Unless Measure S is approved, budget cuts will force the City of San Jose to make serious cutbacks to librarians and library staff, and two-thirds of new library book and materials purchases. These cuts could result in libraries closing additional days each week, longer waits for assistance and computers, and very few new materials available.

In 1994, San Jose voters overwhelmingly passed Measure E, the library assessment that over the last decade has funded the purchase of 7 out of every 10 new books, more than 40 library staff positions and many programs that serve children. We once again face severe budget cutbacks in our state and city governments. Measure S is a dedicated source of funding so that we can prevent drastic cutbacks to San Jose's 17 neighborhood branch libraries.

Please join us in protecting San Jose's outstanding public libraries!

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